

Adult Education Advisory Committee
May 11, 2005
Utah State Office of Education
Room 241
10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Approved Minutes

PRESENT: Members: James Andersen (chair), Paula Oakey (chair elect), Suzette Hudson, Edie Mitko, Wayne Mifflin, Edwin Espinel, , Mary Ann Parkinson, Don Uchida, Jeff Galli, and Gail Burningham (secretary). Others: Andrea Worthen, Mary Shumway, Sue Myers, David Frost, Ed Clark, Blaine Fackrell, Steve Leyba (DWS), H. Doyle Bender (DWS), Larry Winnger (DWS), Brad Newsome (DWS), and Nate Sutherland (UEN).

EXCUSED: Norman Nakamura, Hector Mendiola, Kim Dohrer (past chair), and Herb Clark

Welcome and Introductions

The Adult Education Advisory meeting was held May 11, 2005 at the Utah State Office of Education in room 241. James Andersen welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced him/herself and stated the group they represent.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the April 13, 2005 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the April minutes was made by Suzette Hudson. Wayne Mifflin seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Update - State Adult Ed Coordinator Replacement

Mary Shumway gave an update on the adult education coordinator position. She gave several reasons why the position has not been opened: No Child Left Behind (NCLB) funding, the likelihood of reduction of present staff, and the loss of adult education funds. Mary expressed her thanks to Jeff Galli who has carried the load. She said he has stepped up and is doing a great job. Jeff is in charge of the federal audit, which involves seven modules of information due on Monday; the federal auditors will be coming in August. Adult education has also been involved with the MIS training and we will go to the new system for reporting information starting July 1, 2005.

Mary said the position for the adult education coordinator will be a generic announcement which will require an administrative endorsement and will be opened externally in approximately one week. She wanted the advisory committee to encourage strong candidates to apply and asked that two or three from the advisory committee be on the interview committee. More information will follow and will also be E-mailed to directors and coordinators regarding this.

Jeff talked about the funding spreadsheets, which ought to be out this next week. Mary said the audit process needs to be refined with respect to policy, policy definitions, the window of time, discrepancies and deadlines. The goal is complete the spreadsheet and distribute it to the adult education directors at the March meeting. This is important to directors, as they need to plan the use of their funding and give their staff sufficient notice when it is necessary to cut positions.

WIA Plus Resources Update

Don Uchida gave an update and distributed a handout on the WIA Plus.

The top four programs, on the handout, are already consolidated into DWS in Utah and are proposed to be consolidated in the House version of the WIA reauthorization.

The bottom five, adult education being one, is on the new options list. Adult education funds nation-wide will be decreased by 370 million dollars. All of the money under WIA Plus will go to the Governor and he will have a super waiver so he can use the money however he sees fit among the nine programs.

Usually when block granting is done it is marketed as increasing flexibility but in reality it is to decrease funding.

The Administration states that no decrease in participation will be allowed, so the only option will be less service to participants. The next hearing on the Senate version of the WIA is scheduled for May 18th in Washington D. C.

If WIA Plus is added and passes, advocates and programs will be competing for a greatly reduced funding pot at the state level.

The National Governor's Association (NGA) has been telling Congress they want more flexibility in running programs.

The House and the Senate budget reconciliations for the committees that fund Adult Education Programs and Rehabilitation, cut \$2 billion and \$2.2 billion respectively.

If the President's budget passes, Rehabilitation in Utah will lose three-quarters of a million dollars in FY 2006.

Mary will work with James Andersen to send letters about the reduction in adult education funds to our Representatives and Senators (Hatch and Bennett) in Washington D. C. and the Utah Governor's office (contact is Tim Bridgewater). James was concerned that reducing federal dollars would lower the maintenance of effort for state dollars.

Don Uchida pointed out that both budgets in the National Senate and House have basically a two billion dollar funding cut in the appropriations committees of which adult education is a part.

Work Readiness Presentation

Suzette Hudson gave information regarding the Work Readiness (DACUM) program from DWS. She had a handout that gave the particulars on the program. In a roundtable discussion specific to employers in this area, employers found that 60 % of applicants lack basic reading, writing and math skills.

Paula wanted a list of employers polled and asked how we can use the information gained to support adult education students. Mary Ann suggested that they provide role-play situations for students to practice. Students could practice building certain skills, such as being on time and patience. Choosing the longest line in the grocery store could be a way to practice patience. A

comment was made that employers also need to improve their attitudes and skills in working with employees.

Edwin asked if DACUM collected any information from the employees. Claudia Thorum headed a pilot project with ten agencies to train employee and employers to work together. There is a man, back east, who gives credit for learning these skills; and West High gives a "Passport to Work" certificate that could be presented at an interview. We were informed that this program does have a credential for completion; however there is no credit issued for the program. Andrea Sutton with DWS is the main contact person for this program. Suzette Hudson at DWS could also be contacted for information and the DACUM handout.

It was mentioned that a similar program, Workplace Essential Skills on UEN (channel 9) TV is also designed to prepare students for work. Workplace Essential Skills uses multi-media (TV/videos, print and the Internet) to help students brush up on reading, writing, mathematics, and job skills. There are 24 half-hour programs (plus one for Orientation), four workbooks, and 24 free online lessons written at a pre-GED level. For more information access Utah Education Network website at <http://www.uen.org> - go to Adult Education on the left of the screen - there you will see the UEN Education Resources for Utah Programs and Organizations for Continued Learning; including what's on T.V. (the Workplace Essential Skills Series Broadcast info.).

Adult Education Endorsement

The adult education teachers are often unable to meet the highly qualified status of the NCLB requirements. Jeff said that, adult education teachers probably do not need to be put on the NCLB list. James said it puts teachers in a situation where they issue credit through other endorsed teachers and supervision is minimal; this makes them feel they are not being truthful. Salt Lake City School District sees this as a problem. Jeff will talk with licensing and endorsement at the Utah State Office of Education regarding this problem. It could be solved if there were an endorsement for working with alternative and adult education students. This endorsement would be restrictive and be valid only while the teacher was working with those students.

Census Money to the Base - Board Rule

Ed Clark (Emery) and Blaine Fackrell (Morgan) from smaller districts talked about needs in their districts. Ed said that base funding is not enough to run a program in the smaller districts. If they took the census dollars and added it to the base of the smaller districts it could make a big difference in what he could provide. He could add 11 hours of instruction. Blaine said he has 20 – 30 students and is open two hours in the evening two days a week. This is not enough time to get level gains. Jeff reported for Curtis Barney (Garfield) and said that Garfield needs to have more sites. Because of set costs smaller districts may not be able to produce more outcomes even if they have more money. They need more money because of the distances and the need for multiple sites. James said that some districts have students waiting in line and others turned away; because they lack funds to serve them. These students can be educated at a more economical cost than students in those smaller districts.

James suggested that smaller districts could apply for contingency money; and also suggested that the state office look at providing program development training for those smaller districts. When asked how contingency money was spent in the past; Mary said it was for one time

projects and was not to be used on a continuing basis. It may be that we will have to look at other possibilities for increasing support for small districts.

James handed out the e-mail from Norman Nakamura which states the following: "In regards to the allocation of Census monies to the base of the formula, Administrative Rule R277-733-9 "Allocation of Adult Education Funds" paragraph B stipulates a phasing out of the Census monies. Paragraph C stipulates a phasing increasing percentage of funding based on outcomes." Clearly according to this rule the census funding has to go into outcomes.

In conclusion the following could happen: 1) A change in the rule. 2) Look to contingency for big ticket items (but it can't be used long term). 3) Obtain more funding for adult education. 4) Set criteria for minimum basic programs in rural areas and fund those minimum programs.

USOE staff was assigned to do some research on how contingency money was spent in the past. They are to make some recommendations to the committee as to how to address the needs of the smaller districts. Addressing the needs of smaller districts will be on the agenda for the next adult education directors meeting.

Lunch

H B 232

James Andersen gave a recap of the meeting with Representative Ray, David Steele, Tim Bridgewater and the Lieutenant Governor in which they agreed that the current language requiring adults to take the U-BSCT is problematic because it limits opportunity for adults to pass and take the test. However HB 232 did not get on the special session call list because it did not reach the governors office 48 hours before the session began.

David Frost talked with Representative Howard Stevenson and found that he was unaware the U-BSCT law applied to adults. He now recognizes that the legislature needs to address this problem. Dr. Claudia Thorum and Dave Frost had a 45 minutes phone conversation with Howard Stevenson and he was able to get them on the agenda for the Wednesday, May 18, Education Interim Committee meeting. They will present the issues that impact adults with respect to the U-BSCT.

It was mentioned that if adults do not have the opportunity to take the U-BSCT test they will not be able to get an alternative diploma. What is really needed is a test that can be given to adults on demand when they graduate; and or a state-wide alternative assessment just for adults. The GED should not be the alternative assessment as it is more difficult than the U-BSCT.

Mary introduced Christine Kearn, Associate Superintendent, who addressed several questions with respect to the unique situation surrounding adults and the current U-BSCT legislation. It was suggested that adults who would have graduated prior to 2006 not be required to pass U-BSCT. Edwin felt that the two different diplomas would cause division and even a second class status among graduates. This appeared to be a valid concern with others on the advisory committee.

The issue was also raised as to whether or not a high school student who received an alternative

diploma could go to adult classes, pass the U-BSCT (second chance) and get their diploma. Also when a student realizes he/she will not be able pass the U-BSCT in high school, will they be able to drop out of school and later go to adult education classes for a second chance to pass the U-BSCT and receive a diploma? Christine Kearn will also be at the May 18th State Education Interim Committee meeting and will help support Claudia and David as they make their report.

Agenda Items for June's Meeting

- Quality Standards for English Language Acquisition
- HB 232
- Staff report on the WIA Plus update
- Supporting rural districts continued
- Central Region DWS Adult Directors Meeting – Suzette Hudson

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held on June 8, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in room 241.